

## Exhibition on medicinal plants

As a part of entrepreneurship, Department of Botany organised exhibition of medicinal plants on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Many medicinal plants were displayed with their medicinal purpose and sold to the students, staff and parents. Cocopeat blocks prepared were also sold.

Medicinal plants displayed were: *Centella asiatica*, *Mentha spicata*, *Mentha spicata*, *Plectranthus amboinicus*, *Acmella oleraceae*, *Cissus quadrangularis*, *Hemidesmus indicus*, *Aloe vera*, *Andrographis paniculata*, *Boerhavia diffusa*, *Leucas aspera*, *Piper nigrum*, *Cymbopogon citratus*, *Ocimum sanctum*, *Stevia reubaudina* etc.



## Queen of Millets

Raimati Ghiuria, also known as the 'Queen of Millet', belongs to the Bhumia tribe, in Koraput district, Odisha. Raimati has not only nurtured and safeguarded 30 uncommon millet varieties but has also educated numerous women in the art of millet cultivation. She emphasizes the significance of millets in their daily meals. Millets such as finger millet are used to make chapatis, snacks like dosa and porridge consumed during breakfast, lunch and dinner. Millet cultivation has been a transformative experience for her, leading her to lead a self-help group of women farmers and farmer producer companies. They process millets into value added products like pakoras and laddus. She received the Best Farmer Award at the Traditional Food Festival by TATA steel, Nuamundi, in 2018.



## Cleanliness drive

Department of Botany in collaboration with the Nature's club of St. Joseph Vaz College, Cortalim-Goa, conducted the cleanliness drive in the college campus and its surroundings on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2024. The staff members along with the students undertook the cleanliness drive. The main objective of this drive was to address the issues of hygiene, public sanitation and to create awareness towards the cleanliness. Hand gloves and polythene bags were used to pick the waste like empty bottles, wrappers, papers etc. The outcome of this drive was to make people aware of the importance of cleanliness and methods of handling waste responsibly and try to take a step towards a cleaner environment.



## Competition on 'Leaf Art'

Department of Botany of St. Joseph Vaz College organized Leaf art competition on various themes like leaf painting, leaf carving, leaf mehendi and leaf crafting on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Twenty-two participants participated in group of two for the competition. Students expressed their creativity and thoughts with the help of their talent. The competition was judged by Ms. Viona Correia Assistant professor in Mathematics and Ms. Aroma Diniz, college counselor. Prize winners for Leaf crafting competition: 1<sup>st</sup> prize: Shrushti naik and Isha Gomes 2<sup>nd</sup> prize: Khushnuma Baig and Tanvi Parab. Prize winners for Leaf painting competition: 1<sup>st</sup> prize: Komal Ghanchi and Sanjana Sharma 2<sup>nd</sup> prize: Tanisha Mangueshkar and Tejasvini Lamani. Consolation prize: Varad Parob and Umesh Gani





## Floral Card making competition

Department of Botany of St. Joseph Vaz college organized 'Floral card' making competition on occasion of International Women's day on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The competition was judged by Ms. Jolene Fernandes and Ms. Priya Simoes.

Certificates and prizes were given to the winners.

Prize winners for Floral card making competition: 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Swapna Naik (T.Y.B.Sc) 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Flossy Lucas (T.Y.B.Sc) 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Verwarly Tavares (F.Y.B.Sc).



## A Trip to Dr. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary, Chorao

St. Joseph Vaz College, Cortalim Goa conducted a trip to Dr. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary, Chorao to celebrate the "World Wetlands Day" in collaboration with Goa State Council for Science and Technology as a part of campaign for wetland conservation.

The trip was organized by the Department of Botany under the supervision of the Rev. Dr. Bolmax Pereira (Assistant Professor in Botany) and was attended by 47 students accompanied by 6 faculty members. Resource person was Ms. Alisha Pereira, Science teacher at Regina Mundi High School, Chicalim.

Students saw mangrove varieties such as *Rhizophora* (true mangroves), *Avicennia* (dominant), *Sonneretia*, *Bruggeira*, *Ceriops*, *Kandelia*, *Acanthus*, *Salvadora* (meswak) and other species. Wetland birds like Egrets, Herons, Blackhead ibis, Blue Kingfishers, Cormorants, Kites, Seagulls, and even a common crow. The fiddler crabs playing at the shoreline as well as the sight of Mud skippers erecting mud mounds was a fascinating view.



## Production of Annatto powder

Researchers at the University of Sao Paulo's Luiz de Queiroz College of Agriculture (ESALQ-USP) and the Federal University of Viçosa (UFV) in Brazil have shown for the first time that bixin or annatto powder, a carotenoid pigment extracted from the seeds of the achiote or annatto tree (*Bixa orellana*), is not produced only in the seeds but also in other organs, and that the process intensifies in the plant's adult phase.



### Reference:

<https://phys.org/news/2024-02-botany-discovery-optimize-production-annatto.html>

### Editorial Board:

**Faculty:** Rev. Dr. Bolmax Pereira

Dr. Nikita Verenkar

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Ms. Ashwita Naik

**Student members:** Mr. Varad Parob (F.Y.BSc.)

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